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proach of the four-hundredth anniversary of his birth, when the international significance, not so much of Calvin as of his work, is to be celebrated in 1909 at Geneva.

HERBERT DARLING FOSTER.

The Life of Sir Henry Vane the Younger, with a History of the Events of his Time. By WILLIAM W. IRELAND. (New York: E. P. Dutton and Company. 1906. Pp. xv, 513.)

UP to the present year there have been four elaborate biographies of young Sir Henry Vane, the hero and martyr of the English Commonwealth beloved by Milton: two by Englishmen, George Sikes, Vane's contemporary and disciple (1662), and John Forster; two by Americans, C. W. Upham and James K. Hosmer. To those lives Mr. Ireland adds a fifth, an English book though with an American imprimatur. Mr. Ireland has had a wide experience in the British empire (during which he has seen some military service) and considerable practice in writing books, and is strongly in sympathy with the ideas of the English Commonwealth—a proper equipment for a historian of the Civil War in England and the biographer of one of the chief figures of the time. His presentment is clear, his research has been long-continued and comprehensive, his judgment of men and events is not rashly or ignorantly given.

While it is abundantly plain that Mr. Ireland has been to the sources, there are many documents not cited by him of which we think he might well have availed himself. Of the writings of John Cotton he apparently has no knowledge, yet these were the foundations of the Independency which set up the English Commonwealth. We do not observe that he makes more than cursory reference to the records of the Committee of Both Kingdoms, the Darby House Committee, or the Council of State, the executive bodies which in succession managed affairs; yet Vane was a leading member in all of them, and his activity cannot well be understood without a study of them; they are easily accessible in the Public Record Office in Fetter Lane. Nothing indicates that Mr. Ireland has used with care the manuscript diaries of members of the Long Parliament, now in the British Museum, or many things contained in the Thomasson Tracts that make the period vivid. The important works of C. Harding Firth, and the *Clarke Papers*, which throw such light upon the opinions and action of the army, the rank and file of the Ironsides, we do not find referred to; nor indeed do we regard Mr. Ireland's consideration of the influence of those humble but sturdy soldiers in promoting republicanism, while their leaders hung back, as adequate. As to Cromwell, no doubt a character hard to understand, we do not think the documents bear out Mr. Ireland's conception that his noble early fire became quenched in selfishness and that he died an unworthy usurper and tyrant. While Mr. Ireland has not used some important sources, he appears also to be uninformed or unappreciative of the conclusions of recent

writers in his field, conclusions which it was certainly proper to notice. "Later histories", he says (p. vii), ". . . I have not read, or only looked at after my pages were composed." We believe it would have been to the advantage of his book if more attention had been paid to the work of fellow-workers. Mr. Ireland makes no reference to certain ideas of American students as to the English Commonwealth and the proper place of Vane in history.

American scholars believe that in a curious way a reaction was felt in Old England from New England, even though the colonies of Bradford and Winthrop were so distant and feeble. It was particularly from John Cotton, the great minister of Boston, that a powerful influence went back across the ocean. Owen, Goodwin, and Nye, the ministerial leaders of the Independents in England, professed to have gained their ideas from Cotton's "Keyes" and "Way of the Churches"; while of the secular leaders, Cromwell was Cotton's warm friend and correspondent, and Vane, as has been said, was "trained in Cotton's study" during the time when, scarcely beyond boyhood, he played a part in Massachusetts. Hugh Peters, too, and Roger Williams, men who had been shaped in the New England environment, were in Old England affairs factors of consequence. Independency was often at the time called "the New England way". If American students of the period are correct, momentous indeed was the influence that went back to the Old World from Massachusetts Bay; the English Commonwealth was a mighty and noble manifestation. It came prematurely and apparently failed, but only apparently, for, as John Richard Green has said, "For the last two hundred years England has been doing little more than carrying out in a slow and tentative way the scheme of political and religious reform which the army [the Independents] propounded at the close of the Civil War" (*Short History*, ed. 1875, p. 548).

Since popular government, long the possession of America, grows apace also in England, the line of separation between the two great English-speaking bodies tends to fade out, and the "Anglo-Saxon schism" may perhaps at last be healed—a consummation devoutly to be wished, of which Vane, perhaps more than any other historic figure, is the type and prophet. C. W. Upham declared, two generations ago, that the "name [of young Sir Henry Vane is] the most appropriate link to bind us to the land of our fathers" (*Life*, ed. 1835, p. 99). He possesses perhaps the unique distinction of having had an eminent political career both in America and in England; and his career in England became an effort to establish American ideas, Abraham Lincoln's government of, by, and for the people. For that he strove long after even Cromwell became discouraged in his republicanism, and for that at last he laid his head upon the block. In his leading position in the English Commonwealth, as a strenuous champion of liberty in Richard's Parliament, and in the chaos which immediately preceded the Restoration, Vane may well be described as an American Englishman.

These views as to the English Commonwealth, and this larger and more interesting significance of Vane, American writers have fully presented. Of these views Mr. Ireland has no knowledge—or, knowing them, is not impressed. They are worthy of notice, if only to be pronounced unsound and extravagant. While finding Mr. Ireland's book lacking in some ways, its good purpose, scholarship, and sound republican spirit lead the reviewer to commend it as throwing much light upon its hero and the age in which he moved.

William Pitt Graf von Chatham. Von ALBERT VON RUVILLE. (Stuttgart and Berlin: J. G. Cotta'sche Buchhandlung Nachfolger. 1905. Three vols., pp. xii, 447; viii, 480; viii, 456.)

THIS is a book of unusual merit. Unfortunately, the author had no sooner published it than M. Mantoux discovered a mass of material for the history of England in the eighteenth century in the unpublished reports of parliamentary proceedings transmitted by the French ambassadors in London to the French government. These would undoubtedly have thrown much light on some of the episodes of Pitt's early parliamentary career. Similarly, the author would undoubtedly have found some shreds of information in the archives at Vienna, Dresden, and St. Petersburg, and might have added something by consulting the *Sbornik*.

These sources, however, could have yielded but little information which was not already at the writer's disposal and which he has given us in a book whose construction is a model. He has analyzed his subject carefully and has allotted to each part of it its proper space. He has in addition remarkable ability in presenting in a brief space the principal elements in a situation, an excellent example of which is afforded in his résumé of the political, military, and economic conditions in America before the Seven Years' War. Again, he has exercised admirable judgment and great critical acumen in treating his facts. In particular he possesses what most English writers lack, a proper appreciation of the importance of continental affairs in English history. As to matters military, which play such an enormous part in this period, he shows unusual information; and, while wasting no time over military details, he is able to explain the essential features of a campaign in such a manner that the veriest military tyro can grasp the situation.

In his judgment of Pitt the author is so far from being an advocate that he errs rather in being too severe. This is probably due in part to a healthy reaction against the usual uncritical panegyric which one finds in most English books on Pitt. Nevertheless, it is possible to go too far in reaction, and this von Ruville seems to have done. This is particularly the case when he attempts to explain the reasons for Pitt's acts and policies. He is constantly attributing to Pitt the meanest motives, as in regard to his attitude toward Walpole, which the author